IB No. 165/65 12 May 1965 Copy No. /

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Chief, Manufacturing and Services Division, ORR MEMORANDUM FOR:

MS/CST ATTENTION

Chief, Requirements Branch, Reconnaissance Group, CGS THROUGH

Chief, Photographic Intelligence Division, CIA FROM

SUBJECT Route 92, Laos

REFERENCES

(1) ORR Requirement No. C-RR5-82,535 (2) CIA/PID Project No. 30611-5 25X1D

1. This memorandum is in response to the referenced requirement requesting a study of a new road being constructed from Ban Dong to a point south of Ban Chakeuil Nue.

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2. This road, Route 92, and the surrounding areas which have been covered on recent photography, have been plotted on the enclosed overlay (CIA/PID/IB-P-476/65). The northern portion of this road was covered

Three low-level aerial photos have been selected as representative of this section of the route and have been located on the accompanying overlay (CIA/PID/IB-P-476/65). Photo No. 1 shows the junction of Route 92 and Route 921 (CIA/PID/IB-P-484/65); Photo No. 2, a "coolie" train on Route 92 at UTM coordinates XC 794976 (CIA/PID/IB-P-485/65); Photo No. 3, a ford crossing the Se La Mang (CIA/PID/IB-P-486/65). Between the northern and southern portions of the road under study (XC 760893 and XC 892547) there is an area of no photographic coverage for a distance of 20 nautical miles. The existence of a road connecting these points was reported on paragraph six of the Central Intelligence Information

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The southern end of Route 92 was observed on . At this time construction appeared completed XDD UTM coordinates XC 895432 (5 nm south of Ban Bac) with preliminary clearing and alignment activity to XC 887416. Photos 4 through 9 (excluding Photo No. 7) reveal that much effort has been put into the bridging of gullies

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SUBJECT: Route 92, Laos

and fording of minor streams in an apparent attempt to give the road an all weather capability. The presence of numerous river craft at the end of the improved portion of Route 92 could indicate a transshipment point from road to water transport, or a support element for the road construction effort. The fact that downstream from this point channels have been cut through some of the rapids, lends credence to the former proposal. It should also be noted that the river is near its lowest level at the time of this photography; the possibility being that some of the rapids would be navigable at other seasons.

To the east of Ban Bac a short section of road is under construction along the north bank of the Se Kong, (Photo No. 7, CIA/PID/IB-P-490/65). Construction is at an advanced stage for the first 1.2 nm with probable tree and brush clearing for another 1.5 nm, as indicated on the overlay. The majority of the area to the east, toward the South Vietnamese border, has been covered on photography of the area to the construction efforts to coincide with this eastward extension.

3. The photo analyst assigned to this project was who may be contacted on extension 2547 should any questions arise concerning this requirement. This memorandum and its enclosures are considered a complete answer to the aforementioned requirement. 25X1A

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ENCLOSURES:

1 Map w/overlay (CIA/PID/IB-P-476/65) 10 Photo Enlargements

(CIA/PID/IB-P-484/65 thru P-493/65)

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